# Senate Votes to Cut All Funds for SACB

6/16/72

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In a defeat for the Nixon administration, the Senate voted 42 to 25 yesterday to abolish all funding for the Subversive Activities Control Board.

In a second important decision, the Senate, by a 39-to-28 vote, refused to endorse a proposal for a unilateral slash next Jan. 1 in the U.S. contribution to the United Nations. Instead, it adopted an amendment by Sen. Roman L. Hruska (R-Neb.) giving the State Department until Dec. 31, 1973, to negotiate a reduction in the U.S. contribution from the present 31.5 per cent of total UN assessment to 25 per cent.

Sens. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) and William Proxmire (D-Wis.), who led the fight to strip all money for he SACB from the $48 billion State-Justice-Commerce appropriations bill, lashed into the SACB as a useless relic of the Red-hunting days of the past.

"This board was created in 1950 when McCarthyism reigned supreme," Ervin shouted.

"In 22 years and $6.75 million, the SACB has not done anything useful," Proxmire told the Senate.

The courts have stripped it of all its original intended functions, he said, and it now "will have almost nothing to do" and will simply waste the $450,000 appropriation proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee (the administration had sought $706,000).

Proxmire said the board's only possible function was to write an "official blacklist."

Funding for the board was defended by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.). "It doesn't mean we can do away with security measures just because our President has been to China and Russia," Hollings said. "It does perform a useful function"—to identify allegedly subversive organizations.

The long fight over the board, whose five members get $36,000 a year each, has been intensified by the Nixon administration's appointment of Otto Otepka, an official whom the State Department

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sought to oust several years ago for allegedly supplying information to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

The SACB was created in 1950 by the Internal Security Act, and given the function of requiring Communist-action and Communist-front groups and their members to register with the government.

But a series of court decisions, culminating in two major rulings in 1965 and 1967, held that registration couldn't be required of individuals because that would violate their constitutional right against self-incrimination.

In 1971, seeking to revive some useful function for the board, President Nixon issued an executive order authorizing it to hold hearings—when requested by the Justice Department—to determine whether organizations should be placed on the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations and be called to the attention of all federal departments.

Ervin, Proxmire and others have argued that the President lacked constitutional power to assign the board such new functions, and that the board was therefore useless and should be abolished. Ervin told the Senate that the board's only present function is to hold hearings and remove from the subversive list organizations—already defunct for 10 to 20 years—which could no longer be considered as belonging on the list because they no longer exist.

Both Virginia senators voted to kill the SACB Funds, J. Glenn Beall (R-Md.) voted to retain them, and Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) was absent.

The House has voted $450,000 for the board in its version of the bill. A final decision will be made in a House-Senate conference.